

THE OHIO DEMOCRAT.

"UBI LIBERTAS, IBI PATRIA."—Cicero.—"Where liberty dwells, there is my Country."

BY MITCHENER & MATHEWS.

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POETRY.

On Receiving a Lock of my Mother's Hair.

This single lock of raven hair
Is all remaining, now to me
Of her, whose ceaseless, tender care
Watched o'er my helpless infancy,
Till all that's left of one who died
Too early for her son to know
A Mother's love, whose kindness, tried,
When often failed, could soothe his woe.

Yet often now, my fancy warm
With thoughts of her who gave me birth
Tries to portray her gentle form
And paint her as she looked on earth.
But vainly memory youth recalls
And scenes from life's bright morning bloom
O'er her oblivion's mantle falls
Remembrance speaks but of her tomb.

And thou art mute, thou gloomy tree
Thou once wert hers, thou now art mine
Lone relic—canst thou nought express
As found my hand thy length I twine,
Ay, by thy silence is expressed
What uttered words might fail to do
And thy dumb eloquence the best
For thoughts, that thrill my bosom through.

Where now the voice whose gentle fall
To lull my infant slumbers strove;
That smile and kiss, and more than all
Her look, my mother's look of love.

Thou arm which strained me to her breast
With pressure such as Mothers give;
The eye that shone supremely bright
To see the boy, and see him live—

Where are they—gone, and yonder stone
Narrates her fate and points the spot
Where lowly lies the dust of one,
Mouldered long since, but unforgotten.

And soon like her will pass away
The son she loved and dying, blest,
Earth's cares his spirit cease to sway
And child and parent be at rest.

Rest till the trumpet's call shall sound
Obedient to Jehovah's bid
And son and mother meet around
The dread tribunal of their God.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BURR AND HIS DAUGHTER.

The history of every nation is full of romantic incidents. England has the story of her Alfred, Scotland of her Wallace, her Bruce, her Mary, and her Charles Stuart. Ireland her Fitzgerald, France her Joan of Arc, the Iron Mask, and Marie Antoinette; Poland her Thaddeus; and Russia her Siberian Exiles.

But we very much doubt whether any exceed in interest the exceedingly touching story of Aaron Burr and his gifted, his beautiful daughter, Theodosia. The rise and fall of Burr in the affections of his country are subjects of deep historical interest. At one time we see him carried on the wave of popular favor to such giddy heights that the Presidency itself seemed almost within his grasp, which he only missed to become the second officer in the new Republic. He became the Vice President of the United States. How rapid his rise and then his fall, how sudden, how complete! In consequence of his duel with Hamilton he became a fugitive from justice, is indicted for murder by the Grand Jury of New Jersey—flies to the South; lives for a few months in security until the meeting of Congress; when he comes forth and again takes the chair as President of the Senate. After his term expires he goes to the West, becomes the leading spirit in a scheme of ambition to invade Mexico, (very few will not believe he sought a dismemberment of the Union) is brought back a prisoner of State to Richmond, charged with high treason; is tried and acquitted; is forced to leave his native land and go to Europe. In England he is suspected and added to France where he lives in reduced circumstances, at times not being able to procure a meal of vitals. After an absence of several years he finds means to return home. He lands in Boston without a cent in his pocket, an object of distrust to all.

Burr had heard no tidings of his daughter since his departure from his home; he was anxious to hear from her, her husband, and her boy, an only child in whom her soul seemed bound up. The first news he heard was that his granddaughter had died while he was an outcast in foreign lands which stroke he felt keenly for he dearly loved the boy. Theodosia, the daughter of Burr, was the wife of Gov. Alston of South Carolina. She was married young and while her father was near the zenith of his fame. She was beautiful and accomplished, a lady of the finest feelings, an elegant writer, a devoted wife, a fond mother, a most dutiful and loving daughter, who clung with redoubled affection to the fortunes of her father, as the clouds of adversity gathered around, and he was deserted by the friends whom he formerly cherished.

The first duty Burr performed after his arrival here was to acquaint Mrs. Alston of his return. She immediately wrote back to him that she was coming to see him, and would meet him in a few weeks in N. York. The letter was couched in the most affectionate terms, and is another evidence of the purity and power of woman's love.

In the expectation of seeing his daughter in a few days, Burr received much pleasure. She had become his all on earth. Wife, grandchild friends and all were gone, his daughter alone remained to cheer and solace the evening of his life and to welcome him back from his exile. Days passed on—then weeks—and weeks were lengthened into months yet naught was heard of Mrs. Alston. Burr grew impatient, and began to think that she too had left him, so apt is misfortune to doubt the sincerity of friendship. At length he received a letter from Mr. Alston, inquiring if his wife had arrived safe, and stating that she had sailed from Charleston some weeks previous, in a vessel chartered by him on purpose to convey her to N. York. Not receiving any tidings of her arrival he was anxious to learn the cause of her silence.

What had occurred to delay the vessel? Why had it not arrived? There were questions which Burr asked himself, but no one could answer.

The sequel is soon told. The vessel never arrived. It undoubtedly foundered at sea, and all on board perished. No tidings has ever been heard respecting the vessel, the crew, or the daughter of Aaron Burr—all were lost. This last sad bereavement was only required to fill Burr's cup of sorrow. The last link was broken which bound him to life. The uncertainty of his fate but added to the poignancy of his grief. Hope, the last refuge of the afflicted, became extinct when years had rolled on, and yet no tidings of the loved and lost one gleaned.

Burr lived in New York until the year 1835 (we believe) when he died. The last years of his life were passed in comparative obscurity. Some few old friends who had never wholly deserted him, were his companions; they closed his eyes in death, and followed him to his grave, where it shall rest till the dread trumpet of the Almighty shall call it to judgment.

THE OLD WORLD AND THE NEW.

The larks now carol the same song, and in the same key, as when Adam first turned his enraptured ear to catch the moral. The owl first hooted in a flat; and it still loves the key, and screams through no other octaves. In the same key has ever ticked the death watch: while all the three noted chirps of the cricket have ever have ever been in a, since Tubal Can first heard them in his smithy, or the Israelites in their ash-ovens. Never has the buzz of the great gnat risen above the second; nor that of the house-fly's wing sunk below the first r.

FLOWERS.—Sound had, at first the same connection with color as it has now; and the right angle of light's incidence might as much produce a sound on the first turrets of Cain's city, as it is now said to do on one of the Pyramids. The tulip, in its first bloom in Noah's Garden, emitted heat four and a half degrees above the atmosphere, as it does at the present day.

BIRDS.—In the first migration of birds, they passed from north to south, and fled over the narrowest part of the sea, as they will next autumn. The stormy petrel as much delighted to sport amongst the first billows which the Indian Ocean ever raised, as it does now. The cuckoo and nightingale first began their song together, analogous to the beginning of our April, in the days of Nimrod. Birds that lived on flies, laid bluish eggs in the days of Joseph, as they will two thousand years hence, if the sun does not fall from his throne, or the earth does not break her harness from the planetary car. The first bird that was caged, offered song in a cage, than in its natural spirit. The rat and the robin followed the footsteps of Noah, as they do ours.

INSECTS.—Corals have ever grown edgewise to the ocean stream. Eight millions two hundred and eighty thousand animalcules could as well live in a drop of water in the days of Seth, as now. Flying insects had, or their coats of mail in the days of Japhet, over which they have ever waved plumes of more gaudy feathers than the peacock ever dropped. The bees that afflicted Eve her first honey, made their combs hexagonal; and the first honeycomb produced twenty millions eight thousand three hundred and twenty eggs in one year, as she does at present. The first jump of the first flea was two hundred times its own length, as it was the last summer.

IRON.—There was iron enough in the blood of the first forty-three men to make a ploughshare, as there is to-day, from whatever country or men you collect. The lungs of Abel contained a coil of vital matter, one hundred and fifty-nine feet square, as mine; and the first inspiration of Adam caused seventeen cubic inches of air, as do those of every adult reader.

CHARACTER OF A WELL-BRED MAN.

Some have supposed the fine gentleman and the well bred man to be synonymous characters; but I will make it appear that nothing can be more widely different: the former leaves nature entirely, the latter improves upon her. He is neither a slave nor an enemy to pleasure, but approves or rejects as his reason shall direct. He is above stooping to flatter a knave, though in an exalted station; nor ever overlooks merit, though he should find it in a cottage. His behaviour is affable and respectful, yet not cringing or formal, in his manners easy and unaffected. He misses no opportunity wherein he can oblige his friends, yet does it in so delicate a manner that he seems rather to have received than conferred a favor. He does not profess a passion he never felt, to impose upon the credulity of a silly woman, nor will he injure another's reputation to please his vanity. He cannot love where he does not esteem, nor ever suffers his passions to overcome his reason. In his friendship he is steady and sincere, and lives less for himself than his friend.

LIBERTY.—In what does liberty consist? If we follow impulse, we are its slaves—if we discipline our actions to the dictates of a worldly policy, we are slaves. I have sometimes imagined its essence was oblivion of the past, unconscious for the future, and an equal recklessness for the approbation or contempt of the world—but such a tone of feeling would blot out every stimulant to action.

DISSEMBLING.—"He who cannot dissemble, knows not how to live." This is the substance of all creeds and of every system of education, for how otherwise can we render the perpetual command to subjugate our minds and conquer passion?

JOSEPHINE.—Josephine was constitutionally all that is amiable and delightful—but vainly does her sybil biographer insist that she sincerely regretted the reverses of Napoleon; the gratuitous insolence of his satire, and his interference with her costume, millions, and her hairdressers, she might easily have pardoned, but when he was unfeeling, so unhesitatingly sacrificed her to his ambition, and heaped disgrace on her unprotected head, not to rejoice in his defeat was impossible. The divorce was also an insult to their old friends, and to the companions of his youthful glory; in dissolving a plebeian alliance, and seeking to connect himself with ancient royalty, he admitted the existence of a merit which was not individual and personal, and dishonored the principles of the revolution. Undazzled by her magnificence, Josephine was capable of discerning truth—"Why," said she, "should I fancy my destiny of more importance than those of thousands of Frenchmen whom my husband's ambition has caused to fall in battle?" where is the princess of royal birth capable of such a reflection?

FREEDOM.—If the stern law of necessity decrees that man must hourly toil to sustain the threat of his miserable existence, though the laws of his country be light as air, an Asiatic slave, whose tasks are easy, is more essentially free than him.

NATURE'S LAWS.—If nature's apparent laws should be reversed, and the negro soar into the poet and artist, his first step must be the creation of a new code for the fine arts, and the erasure of all those chartered analogies between sentiment and inanimate beauty, consecrated in the "fair times," when taste and genius turned the Grecian lyre—dark will be the hour when jet and charcoal supersede the rose and the red rubine and coral are banished as inappropriate emblems—a sable Pope will not sing of ruby lips, nor a sable Raphael paint them.

If feminine beauty were blotted from creation, and man, retaining his elegance of form and lustre of complexion, beheld every female transformed into the likeness of our negroes, would the position of women continue exactly the same in society? When the disgust of the first shock subsided, or the present generation having passed away, and female beauty become as a tradition of the giants—would some fantastic image, with proportions not founded in nature, be the beau ideal of imagination then, and the marble goddesses, sole records of departed beauty, be regarded as memorials of a false and unnatural taste?

CONGRESSIONAL.

SPEECH OF MR. KENNEDY OF INDIANA.

In the House of Representatives, June 30th, 1841.—In Committee of the Whole, on the State of the Union, on the bill for the distribution of the proceeds of the Public Lands.

Mr. Kennedy rose and made some preliminary remarks, about the difference between him and his colleagues—the constitutionality of the measure—the original owners of these lands—the right of Congress to give them away, and then proceeded to give his reasons why he could not support the bill, as follows:

I oppose it first, and mainly, because it is emphatically wrong in principle, and ruinous in its effects. Gentlemen say, and let them attempt to disguise it as much as they please, yet the fact will still be apparent to the most casual observer, that this is nothing more nor less than a project to empty the Treasury of this nation, in order to create a pretext for creating a national debt. There is a certain class of politicians in this country who think a national debt a national blessing. This doctrine was avowed to the American people many years ago. The people, however, were of a different opinion, a majority believing, as I most religiously believe, that a national debt is a national curse. This being the opinion of the people fully expressed, and some of those holding the former opinion coming into power it becomes necessary, in order to make the people acquiesce in a public debt, that you should convince them that it was necessary to create a debt, in order to carry on the operations of the Government; hence, the first measure is, to divide the public treasury among the States. And then one of two things inevitably follow; you must either make up the deficit by a high protective tariff, or resort to a loan for that purpose. This Mr. Chairman, is one of the corner stones of a set of measures which are to follow; all of which I believe to be, in their tendency, the most pernicious to the American people. Therefore I oppose it.

But, sir, it is said that the States are in debt, and that this money will give them great relief; and the State which I have the honor in part to represent, has been frequently alluded to. It is said that she is deeply in debt; and that she wants the money she will receive by this bill to relieve herself. Well, suppose she is in debt. She contracted the debt herself, and if you will let her alone, she will pay her debts without asking the other States to help her. For the proposition now before us, is not whether you will give the States a surplus of money which you have on hand; but it is whether the General Government will collect from the people of the States money to distribute among the States. This, sir, is the plain state of the case, for no one pretends to deny that every dollar you extract from the Treasury to distribute, must be made up by imposing a heavier tax upon the people.

The naked proposition, stripped of all its sham pretences of aiding the States, is to distribute to the States with one hand, and then to take from the people in the shape of additional taxes, a greater amount with the other. It is no more nor less, sir, than an attempt to buy the people with their own money. It has bribery, sir, stamped upon its very face. It involves not only an act of gross injustice upon them, but is an insult to their understanding.

But, Mr. Chairman, the State from which I come does not wish this Government to tax her Sister States to pay her debts; for if this money which you propose to distribute to us is to be received from the citizens of other States, it is unjust for us to receive it. It is making those who had no hand in creating our debt, pay that debt! If the money must be raised from the pockets of the people of Indiana to make up this deficit, then let us raise it ourselves in our own way. The State of Indiana is not yet reduced to that degraded condition that she needs a guardian. Nor are her representatives on this floor any better able to lay a tax upon her citizens, than her representatives in her own Legislature. There is another objection to this mode of laying taxes to pay State debts. It begets a reckless spirit of extravagance in our State Legislature, by removing from them the responsibility of laying taxes upon their constituents to pay the debts they contract. And by this means the people of the States have been led on—blindfold to contracting debts, which have been upon them like an incubus; and from which it will take a long and strict course of economy to relieve them. This is the exact situation of

my own State. If the Legislature of Indiana had levied upon the people of that State, at the commencement of her system of internal improvement, barely sufficient to pay the interest upon the loans they had contracted, they would never have suffered their Representatives to proceed the distance they have plunging her into the debt which now hangs about her neck like a millstone; and which is now made the excuse to bribe her people at home, and her Representatives here, into a support of this iniquitous measure.

Mr. Chairman, my feeling of State pride would prevent me from supporting this measure. Pass this bill, and what would be the spectacle presented here? You would see, sir, the once proud and independent States of this Confederacy coming here, year after year, and begging (by their Representatives on this floor) for what? Why, sir, that this Government, which was created by them, would be so generous and condescending as to give them a few paltry dollars! a little money to pay their debts with! What a spectacle of humiliation! What a descent from the once proud height of State pride and independence! For one, although I may stand alone in the delegation from the indebted States, I will not submit to this humiliation, this degrading position. And should it be my lot to fall in this conflict, I shall have the proud satisfaction of knowing that I fell in the last ditch, contending for the preservation of the dignity and character of my State. If this principle be adopted, where is it to end? Will you stop distributing the money of the General Government to the States, when this fund is exhausted? No, sir, no! Once set the example, and there will be no end to the policy except in the total destruction of all State pride, and the consolidation of this Government. What is it that has hitherto kept our State Governments, in all their efficiency and vigor. It was not the ideal boundaries of the State Governments, but it was a feeling of State pride, sir; State pride which led men to regard the offices and honors conferred upon them by a State, equal in dignity and rank to those of the General Government; which made a man as proud of being the Governor of a State, as the President of the United States—as proud of being a member of this body. This, sir, was what kept up these State Governments, which our forefathers thought, and labored so jealously to teach us, were the palladiums of American liberty!

What, Mr. Chairman, is the point to which we are now tending, and the courses which, it seems to me, we have been lately pursuing in hot haste? It is to consolidation! For, as I said before, destroy State pride, make men forget that they are citizens of a State, and you might as well blot out the boundary line which divides one State from another. I have witnessed, with deep mortification, the powerful strides we have for the last few years been making towards this goal of State subservience. Why, sir, it has been the case, more or less, in all the States for the last few years, that if any person was a candidate for a State, county, or even a township office, he was first asked what were his views of State policy; not who are you for President, or for a seat in Congress? But now all is swallowed up in national politics; no man now-a-days seems to think it worth his while to have any State politics. Such is now the tendency of things, but pass this bill; say that the States shall come here for all the funds they receive; come here to have the taxes levied to support their State Governments, and you give the finishing stroke to State interest and State pride, which have hitherto preserved their sovereignty and independence; and I predict, that from that time forward, whatever this Federal Government may be in name, it will be, in fact, a single central, consolidated Government from which may the God of our Fathers preserve us.

The gentleman from Maine [Mr. Clifford] has shown us a statement from the proper Department, that the General Government has expended, in the purchase and sale of the public domain more than it has received in return by some fourteen millions of dollars, and consequently there is nothing to distribute. With these statistics the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. Howard], falls out, and attempts to prove by Gen. Jackson's veto message, that the gentleman from Maine is in error. This veto message, Mr. Chairman, is a curious quarter for the gentleman from Michigan to seek his information! But he seems entirely to forget that, since the year 1832, when this calculation was made, there has been purchased from the Indians and sold to the citizens, a vast amount of lands, more than at any other period of the same length in the history of our Government, and that in that time the price of the soil and the expense of sale has vastly accumulated, whilst the land has been sold at the same price of \$1 25 per acre. The gentleman seems to think that the statement of the gentleman from Maine was erroneous. Well, Mr. Chairman, this may be the case; I have not examined it. But I have scarcely ever found a Yankee mistaken in his figures! We of the West, who speak off-hand, and from the impulse of the moment, and from the impulse of the moment, may sometimes be wrong in our statistics. But, when you see a cool-headed New Englander sit down and make up his table of figures, he is mighty apt to be right.

[Here Mr. Howard said he was a Yankee too.]

Well, Mr. Chairman, the gentleman says he is a Yankee too. If he is, he has wandered far from the land of his birth, and, in my mind, he has become, as we call it in the West considerably nonchalant. [A laugh.]

But the gentleman from Michigan, in his calculation of the expenses of the General

Government, connected with the public lands, say much about expenses of surveys and sales, and talks loud about the money being lost by the fruitlessness of Price, Swartout, and other defaulters. Much money, Mr. Chairman, may have been lost in this way; but I must confess that this is the first time that I ever heard that Swartout was in any way connected with the public lands! [A laugh.]

The gentleman from Michigan complains that these public lands should have been a burden, rather than a source of revenue to the General Government. Why, sir, I thought it had been the policy of this Government to sell those lands low, so as to make it easy for the pioneer of the West to become a freeman, by being the owner of a sufficient amount of the soil, upon which he could honestly raise up his growing family, rather than to make them a source of revenue. Yes, sir; it is the true policy of this Government to hold out to the honest poor of the old States inducements to emigrate to the Western world, and there become the proprietors of the soil in the valley of the Mississippi. And the consequence of this policy has been to make the "wilderness blossom as the rose." And where is the man who would now change this policy? I see, Mr. Chairman, in the bill upon your table, a feature which, in the consequences necessarily resulting from it, will change the old system of policy in regard to the public lands. You propose to make the proceeds of the sales of these lands a permanent fund for distribution among the States. What, will follow? Why, sir, it will be soon discovered that this fund, at \$1 25 per acre, will be too small; and at that price, too soon exhausted. You will then raise it to \$2 00; from that to three, four, and five dollars per acre! This will be the result of this measure, and the consequence will be that vast tracts of our Western soil will be kept unsettled and unsold for half a century, for the double purpose of keeping a food for distribution, and retard the growth of the West. Have gentlemen viewed well the consequences which will flow from this measure? I have stated, Mr. Chairman, some of the objections I have to the principles of the bill. And now for its details.

The first feature which presents itself for consideration is the proposition to give to some of the Western States 10 per cent. over and above their equal proportion. What is this feature intended to produce? Is it a bribe offered to us of the West, in order to make us take this measure, so obnoxious to our growth and prosperity? If it is intended as a bribe, all I have to say is that I for one will not accept it. No, sir, I spurn it. The people of Indiana once refused this measure, when the bribe was larger. And will she now, when you are taking advantage of her impoverished condition to seduce her from her integrity, will she now bite at the bait? No, sir, she will rather make you such an answer as one of the distinguished patriots of the Revolution made to one of the minions of the British crown: "We are poor indeed, but all your wealth cannot buy us." Such, sir, is the answer I will give, so long as I am permitted to retain a seat upon this floor.

Sir, if you had offered us this bonus when we were out of debt, and, consequently, able to treat with you as equals, we would not have suspected you with a design upon our virtue, and then we could have stopped to argue with you. But when you take advantage of our poverty and distress to make these advances to us, we are induced to suspect you of an intention to practise upon our integrity, and therefore we turn from you, and treat you, and your bribe with scorn and contempt.

Another feature of the bill which seems to be unjust, is that part of it which makes the distribution according to the ratio of representation on this floor. The property representation recognized by the Constitution, which places five slaves in the South upon the footing of three freemen in the North, was given for representative purposes, not distributive purposes. Distributive purposes, did I say? I do not know, sir, but the term is inapplicable; for well do I know, that the framers of that instrument never, whilst they were engaged in the great work of forming and perfecting that noble charter of human liberty, imagined that under it the Congress of the United States would claim the right to collect money for the purpose of distributing it amongst the States. Such a power is now claimed, however, and if it is legitimately exercised, why not make the distribution according to the plan by which they authorized it levy. The Constitution provides that representation and direct taxation shall go hand in hand, which simply means, that if five slaves in the South shall be equal to three freemen in the North, for representative purposes, that the five slaves in the South shall pay as much tax into the treasury as the three freemen of the North. But by the provisions of this bill, you reverse this just rule, and distribute as much of the revenue of the Government to the five slaves of the South, as you do to the three freemen of the North. This, sir, is wrong in principle and unjust in practice, and doubly so, because the whole measure is founded in wrong and injustice.

There is one provision in this bill, Mr. Chairman, which I would most cheerfully support, if it were not found in such bad company! I refer to the tail of the bill, as it is called, which grants to the actual settlers the right of pre-emption. The tail, sir, I could take, if the head was cut off! But, as a whole, I cannot swallow it. The gentleman from Georgia objects to this feature of the bill, and complains bitterly that these settlers are suffered to take the choice of all our Western lands. Well, sir, in that case, whom would you